30.

REASONS

Humbly offered

For Paſſing the Bill for Encouragement and Improvement of the Manufacture of

Engliſh Sail-Cloth.

IT is not many Years ſince the *French* had the ſole Trade of making Sailcloth, and furniſhed both *England* and *Holland* with that Commodity; 'till in the Time of King *Charles* the Second, that *France* and *England* making War upon *Holland*, the *French* King prohibited the ſelling or ſending any of his Canvas to the *Dutch*, who were thereupon enforced to ſet it up for themſelves; and have in that Time brought it to ſo great Perfection, as not only to ſupply their own Shipping with that Commodity, but alſo to furniſh this Kingdom with the ſame to the yearly Amount of 200000 *l.* and upwards. That about Five or Six Years ago, upon Encouragement given by Act of Parliament, that Manufacture was attempted to be ſet up here; and has ſo well ſucceeded in that Time, by the Care and Induſtry of the Undertakers, that if a further Encouragement were given to it, it would in all probability equal if not exceed the *Hollands Duck*.

The Benefit ariſing to this Kingdom by propagating this moſt uſeful Manufacture, amongſt many others that might be enumerated, are chiefly theſe:

I. It employs already a very great Number of our Poor in Beating, Heckling, Spinning, and Weaving. That of every Hundred Pounds employed in making this Commodity, Three parts in Four goes out in Labour; ſo that if 200000 *l.* which by a moderate Compute is the yearly Import of that Commodity from *Holland*, were ſpent at Home, amongſt our own Poor 150000 *l.* of that would go in Eaſe of the great Charge and Burden we are at in maintaining of them.

II. If this Manufacture were Encouraged, great Quantities of Hemp and Flax would be ſown in ſeveral Parts of this Kingdom, and a further Help by that means given towards the Imployment of our Poor.

England making War upon *Holland*, the *French* King prohibited the ſelling or ſending any of his Canvas to the *Dutch*, who were thereupon enforced to ſet it up for themſelves; and have in that Time brought it to ſo great Perfection, as not only to ſupply their own Shipping with that Commodity, but alſo to furniſh this Kingdom with the ſame to the yearly Amount of 200000 *l.* and upwards. That about Five or Six Years ago, upon Encouragement given by Act of Parliament, that Manufacture was attempted to be ſet up here; and has ſo well ſucceeded in that Time, by the Care and Induſtry of the Undertakers, that if a further Encouragement were given to it, it would in all probability equal if not exceed the *Hollands Duck*.

The Benefit ariſing to this Kingdom by propagating this moſt uſeful Manufacture, amongſt many others that might be enumerated, are chiefly theſe:

I. It employs already a very great Number of our Poor in Beating, Heckling, Spinning, and Weaving. That of every Hundred Pounds employed in making this Commodity, Three parts in Four goes out in Labour; ſo that if 200000 *l.* which by a moderate Compute is the yearly Import of that Commodity from *Holland*, were ſpent at Home, amongſt our own Poor 150000 *l.* of that would go in Eaſe of the great Charge and Burden we are at in maintaining of them.

II. If this Manufacture were Encouraged, great Quantities of Hemp and Flax would be ſown in ſeveral Parts of this Kingdom, and a further Help by that means given towards the Imployment of our Poor.

III. In caſe it ſhould hereafter happen that we ſhould have a War with *Holland*, we ſhould by this means be in a Condition to ſupply our ſelves at Home with that Eſſential part of Naval Stores which we are now dependant upon *Holland* for.

IV. We might not only by this means help our ſelves upon all Occurrences, but by an equal Diſtribution in our Exports of that Commodity, be able to ſupply our own Plantations with it; and of what Advantage that would be to *England* in this Juncture, is pretty plain and obvious.

'Tis therefore humbly hoped, upon theſe Conſiderations, this Honourable Houſe will not ſuffer ſuch an Uſeful and Beneficial Manufacture to be loſt, but will Paſs the Bill that now lies before them for the further Encouragement and Improvement of it.